

Letter on Payoff Forged, U.S. Says

By Michael Getler

Washington Post Foreign Service

BONN, West Germany, Sept. 22 —The U.S. embassy here said today that the United States considers "to be a forgery", a letter allegedly written by former CIA chief Allen Dulles in November 1958 to former West German Defense Minister Franz-Josef Strauss that alludes to "subsidies" apparently earmarked for Strauss.

Strauss, then and now head of West German's Christian Social Union Party, has been the target of as-yet-unproven allegations by a former Lockheed employee that some 12 million in pay-offs were made to that party in connection with West Germany's purchase of some 900 F-104 Starfighter jets beginning in 1958. Strauss has vehemently denied the accusations.

An embassy statement said no evidence had been found that such a letter was ever written or that Dulles had ever served as an intermediary between Lockheed and other governments.

Moreover, the statement adds, it is considered "highly unlikely that he [Dulles] would have acted in such a capacity. On the basis of the available evidence, therefore, the U.S. government considers the letter to be a forgery."

The embassy statement is the fourth allegation this month of forgeries in the global Lockheed bribery scandal.

Last week, the West German Defense Ministry said that handwriting experts had established as forgeries some of the incriminating letters produced by Ernest Hauser, the former Lockheed agent who has alleged that bribes were paid to Strauss' party in the Lockheed purchases.

Two weeks ago, a Netherlands' commission reported that a memorandum alleging \$878,000 pay-off was "a forgery put in circulation by Mr. Hauser."

Earlier this month, a Lockheed spokesman also said documents published in the Italian magazine L'Espresso that linked Premier Giulio Andreotti to Lockheed bribery charges, "appear to be forgeries."

The alleged Dulles letter, which was published by a German newspaper last week, was addressed to Franz J. Strauss, and said, in part: "I can confirm that the subject of subsidies, to which you alluded, will present no difficulties now that your contract with the firm has been successfully concluded."

Hand of KGB detected in Lockheed bribes smear

From Our Own Correspondent
Bonn, Sept 20

Herr Franz-Josef Strauss, the right-wing Bavarian political leader, today accused the "Russian secret service" of organizing a defamation campaign against him over the Lockheed bribery scandal.

With less than two weeks to go to the general election on October 3, the Lockheed affair refuses to disappear from the headlines.

Herr Strauss, the chairman of the Christian Social Union, the Bavarian component of the Bonn Opposition, was Defence Minister when West Germany purchased 917 Starfighter aircraft from Lockheed.

Scarcely had Bonn recovered from the startling weekend disclosure that large quantities of papers relating to the Starfighter purchase had simply disappeared from Defence Ministry files when a Sunday newspaper published a facsimile of a forged letter.

This purported to be from Mr Allen Dulles, then director of the Central Intelligence Agency, to Herr Strauss in 1958. Several reporters received copies through the post. It refers to "subsidies" having been set aside in the event that

"the contract would go through". There is no reference to Lockheed or the Starfighter.

In an interview in today's editions of the mass-circulation *Bild Zeitung* of Hamburg, which favours the Opposition, Herr Strauss says the Soviet secret service was behind the forgery.

He said the KGB and the ruling coalition in Bonn had the same objective in seeking morally to defame leading CSU politicians. In the same interview, he said he had nothing against the idea of setting up a parliamentary investigation committee to look into the Lockheed affair.

A state secretary in the Ministry of Justice left for Washington at the weekend to resume negotiations with the Americans to gain access to the 30,000 pages of evidence relating to Lockheed's dealings with West Germany. There appears to be no chance at all of this being agreed before the election here.

Both the Opposition as a whole and the Government now wholly support a parliamentary investigation. The Americans are reluctant to hand the Lockheed material to such a body for fear of leaks.

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE VA-13

WASHINGTON POST
9 SEPTEMBER 1976

Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

CIA Withheld Data in JFK Probe

After President John F. Kennedy was struck down on Nov. 22, 1963, the Central Intelligence Agency received evidence suggesting that Cuban Premier Fidel Castro arranged the assassination in retaliation for attempts on his life.

Yet sources privy to the secret discussions at the highest levels of the CIA during those hectic days now tell us that the CIA deliberately withheld the evidence from the Warren Commission investigating Kennedy's death.

Our sources cite two reasons for holding back this evidence. One was a resolve to cover up the secret that the CIA had enlisted Mafia mobsters to kill Castro.

There also was a legitimate concern that the Castro revelations might inflame the American people, whose grief could have turned into a terrible wrath that might have precipitated some rash action.

Only a few key people knew about the CIA plot to assassinate Castro. One was Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, who was his brother's personal watchdog over the CIA. It has now been established that Robert Kennedy was briefed on May 7, 1962, about the attempt to use underworld killers to knock off Castro.

Two days later, Robert Kennedy cautioned the CIA not to go ahead with the assassination without consulting him. Since Robert Kennedy rode herd on the CIA, it must be assumed that he was kept advised of subsequent assassination attempts. However, there is no documentary evidence of this.

Records now available show that Robert Kennedy informed FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover of the plot on May 10,

1962. Yet neither Kennedy nor Hoover later divulged this important information to the Warren Commission.

Of course, various CIA officials also knew about the assassination scheme. Not the least of them was the late CIA chief Allen W. Dulles, who approved the original plan. He later served on the Warren Commission, yet he sat silently throughout the investigation without mentioning the Cuban angle.

Within hours of President Kennedy's death, the U.S. embassy cabled information from Mexico City suggesting that the Cubans may have been behind the assassination. Our sources say that the CIA developed similar information in Washington.

The first person to reach Robert Kennedy's side after the shooting was CIA Director John A. McCone, who remained alone with the Attorney General at his McLean, Va., home for nearly three hours.

McCone swore to us that Castro's name was never mentioned during the three hours. But CIA records show that the next day McCone not only mentioned Castro to the new President, Lyndon B. Johnson, but briefed him on the information from Mexico City.

Yet no one brought the Cuban connection to the attention of the Warren Commission. We were the first to get word of the anti-Castro plot to Chief Justice Earl Warren, the commission chairman, four years later.

We are now free to reveal our role in the drama. Two of our confidential sources, CIA agent William Harvey and mobster John Rosselli, are dead. A third source, attorney Edward P. Mor-

gan, has waived the confidentiality we had promised him.

Morgan told us in January, 1967, about the CIA-Mafia assassination plot against Castro. He raised the possibility that the plot could have backfired against President Kennedy. There were suspicious circumstances, he pointed out, indicating that Castro may have learned of the attempts on his life and may have retaliated against Kennedy.

Morgan refused to identify his sources because it would have violated the attorney-client privilege. But he was an attorney of such stature that we didn't doubt his word. He had been chief inspector of the FBI. He had directed the historic congressional investigation of the Pearl Harbor bombing. Later, he ran the investigation into the excesses of the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy.

We got Morgan's permission, to write a cautious story. We confirmed the general outlines from a CIA source. Then on March 3, 1967, we wrote that Robert Kennedy "may have approved an assassination plot, which then possibly backfired against his late brother."

The next day, according to records now available, Kennedy's secretary called for a copy of the May 7, 1962, memo, which summarized the briefing he had received on the assassination plot.

On March 7, 1967, we reported more details. "A reported CIA plan in 1963 to assassinate Cuba's Fidel Castro," we wrote, "... may have resulted in a counterplot by Castro to assassinate President Kennedy."

STATINTL

Bernhard's Northrop Ties Stir Wave of Questions

*Prince's Financial Deals, Personal Life,
Apparent C.I.A. Links, and Even His
Background Are Under Scrutiny*

By BERNARD WEINRAUB
Special to The New York Times

THE HAGUE, Sept. 4—Disclosures that Prince Bernhard retained links with the Northrop Aircraft Corporation as well as Lockheed have stirred a wave of questions here about the Prince's financial dealings, his personal life, his ties to American intelligence officials and even his background.

To senior Dutch officials, as well as journalists, the scandal involving Prince Bernhard remains like a jigsaw puzzle whose pieces have not yet fitted together. "The question is why did he actually do this?" a Foreign Ministry official said yesterday. "Was it greed, what was it?"

Beyond the reasons for his requests for favors, some of them seemingly petty, some of them sizable, allegations have also been raised here about Prince Bernhard's ties to the Central Intelligence Agency, his jet-set life and friendships with several women, and his complex relationship with his mother and godfather, a former czarist army officer.

The 65-year-old German-born Prince earns a salary of \$300,000 a year, and is married to one of the world's richest women. Queen Juliana receives a tax-free annual salary of about \$1.3 million and has a private fortune estimated at \$12 million, although it may be far higher.

Asked \$1 Million Payment

On the face of it, according to Dutch officials, Prince Bernhard hardly needed money; yet in 1974 he told Lockheed that he was "bitter" that the company had not acknowledged his services and asked, somewhat petulantly, for a \$1 million commission.

Carl A. Kotchian, Lockheed's former president, told a Senate hearing that Prince Bernhard "would lead you to believe that the Queen has him on a tight budget."

"He usually said there were great demands upon him for charitable donations in Holland and internationally, and he has a great interest in wildlife and he had to pay the money out for that," Mr. Kotchian said.

Other facts have since emerged about Prince Bernhard's financial needs.

According to Dutch sources, his mother, Princess Armgard, arrived in the Netherlands penniless shortly after World War I, with a half-dozen relatives, having lost all the family's property. The Princess was accompanied by Col. A.E. Pantchoulidzew, a czarist officer who fled the Soviet Union in 1917, and worked as a stablehand for Princess Armgard and her husband, Prince Bernhard zur Lippe. He eventually became part of the family and Prince Bernhard's godfather.

British Allegation

When Bernhard's father died, his will reportedly gave custody of the children to the colonel and a letter that was disclosed posthumously asked the colonel to take care of his wife.

It appears that in 1968, shortly before the colonel's death, he and Princess Armgard were married. Last week The Observer, the British Sunday newspaper, published the allegation that the colonel might have actually been Prince Bernhard's father.

Prince Bernhard purchased an estate for his mother in the eastern Netherlands in the 1950's, and reportedly sold it in 1974, after his mother's death, for more than \$350,000 to a company in Lichtenstein. According to informed sources here, one of the trustees of the company was Tibor Rosenbaum, a Swiss friend of Prince Bernhard and director of the International Credit Bank, which collapsed several years ago. The bank reportedly held funds deposited by Meyer Lansky, the underworld figure named in the Dutch Government's inquiry as the man to whom Lockheed paid \$1 million

to be assumed by Lockheed that the money had indeed got to [the Prince]," the inquiry's report said.

According to Dutch officials, it was evident in the 1950's that Prince Bernhard was "extremely anxious" to assist his mother and relatives. Moreover, Queen Juliana was reportedly embarrassed and displeased about her mother-in-law's relationship with Colonel Pantchoulidzew, and reluctant to provide sizable assistance.

According to the Government report, Prince Bernhard admitted that he and his friend Fred Meuser, a Lockheed official, dispensed \$100,000 to "a few mutual acquaintances," among the other favors performed by the aircraft company.

Prince Bernhard—who was used by the Government over the last three decades as an energetic salesman of Dutch goods—traveled abroad repeatedly and led a frenetic jet-set life, compared to that of Queen Juliana, a matronly and shy figure.

Apparent C.I.A. Ties

British and Dutch newspapers have commented widely about his relationship with Countess Helene Lejeune — nicknamed "Poupette"—the daughter of a prominent surgeon and a mother who has appeared in some minor French films.

But perhaps the most intriguing and unexplained element to the mystery surrounding Prince Bernhard is his apparent ties to the Central Intelligence Agency.

One reliable source close to the Government said that last February, when Prime Minister Joop den Uyl asked Prince Bernhard about the allegations that linked him to Lockheed, the Prince laughed and denied any wrongdoing. Bernhard said, however: "If you would ask me about my relations with the C.I.A., that would be a different matter."

Prince Bernhard's wartime aide, Gen. John von Houghton, a Dutch resistance hero and an intelligence officer, reportedly had ties to the C.I.A. here in the 1950's.

A small commercial bank that Mr. Houghton set up in the Hague after the war—a bank in which Prince Bernhard reportedly maintained an account—was, according to one source here, financially assisted by the C.I.A. The bank eventually collapsed amid allegations of illicit dealings. Nevertheless, Prince Bernhard reportedly purchased a home for Mr. von Houghton, who died

According to one reliable source here, the Prince maintained close friendships with C.I.A. officials in the Hague as well as with the former United States Ambassador, J. William Middendorf, who left his diplomatic post in 1973 and is now Secretary of the Navy.

Prince Bernhard was also a close friend of Allen W. Dulles, founder of the C.I.A., and it is known that several men involved in the Dutch resistance and in post-war intelligence later found jobs with Lockheed.

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